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BOOK NOTICES

The Orient in Bible Times. By Elihu Grant. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1920. Pp. xii+336. \$2.50.

This is a very attractive book, beautifully printed and well provided with a series of fine half-tone illustrations. The text is fully up to the standard of the illustrative material. Dr. Grant, who is professor of biblical literature in Haverford College and is already known to the general public by a book on *Peasant Life in Palestine*, to say nothing of various bits of technical work in scientific journals, has given us a concise but reliable history of the oriental world. He first of all traces the history of Egypt, to which he gives four chapters. This is followed by a sketch of the history of Babylonia and Assyria. This in turn is followed by a chapter devoted to the Persian empire down to the time of Alexander the Great. Our attention is then called to the Mediterranean peoples who settled in Syria and Palestine and influenced those regions in various ways. The rest of the book (chaps. xi to xv) is given to the history of the Hebrews. For anyone sincerely desirous of familiarizing himself with the long history of human habitation in Palestine and adjacent territory, no better book than this could be recommended.

Mahzor Yannai. Edited with introduction and notes by Israel Davidson and Ginsberg. New York: Jewish Theological Seminary, 1919. Pp. xlix+55+iv.

This book comes sixth in the series of "Texts and Studies of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America," most of which are edited from the Genizah discovered in Cairo during the last century. In this volume the remains of a large work of a very prolific medieval Jewish writer are for the first time published. Up to the present day such texts were not accessible to the public, and the editors of this *Mahzor* have no doubt rendered a great service to scholars and people interested in medieval Jewish literature whose history is yet to be written.

The *Mahzor Yannai* contains Genizah fragments of Piyut or ritualistic poetry, as well as a few liturgical compositions of Yannai. Examining all the texts in this volume, it becomes clear for the first time that Yannai, whose name has only during the last century been rescued from oblivion, played no unimportant part in the development of Jewish liturgy. His Palestinian origin as well as his date is shown from these texts.

On the whole, the editors of this book are contributing an important page to the history of Jewish literature.

The Spirit: The Relation of God and Man, Considered from the Standpoint of Recent Philosophy and Science. Edited by B. H. Streeter. New York: Macmillan, 1919. Pp. xii+377. \$2.50.

This is a volume of essays by seven different contributors, yet the book has a distinct unity of purpose. As stated by the editor in the Introduction, its object is to put forward a conception of the Spirit of God that will make possible a coherent philosophy of the universe and at the same time afford an intellectual basis for a religion that is passionate and ethical as well as mystical and practical. The authors recognize that the crude supernaturalism of traditional Christianity has been discredited by modern scientific knowledge, yet they believe that the crude materialism of Victorian science is also no longer tenable. They seek for the ultimate reality of existence in the Power behind phenomena and identify this Power with the Spirit as the active indwelling energy of transcendent divinity. Thus the Spirit is viewed as "God in action." From this point of view the conception of the Spirit is expounded in the light of past Christian belief and experience, and also in the light of modern opinion in the fields of philosophy, psychology, and art. The result is still a supernaturalism but one greatly refined as compared with traditional notions about the Spirit.

The titles of the various papers with their authors are "Immanence and Transcendence," by A. Seth Pringle-Pattison, "God in Action" and "The Language of the Soul: Some Reflections on the Christian Sacraments," by Lily Dougall, "The Psychology of Power," by J. Arthur Hadfield, "What Happened at Pentecost," by C. A. Anderson Scott, "The Psychology of Grace: How God Helps" and "The Psychology of Inspiration: How God Teaches," by C. W. Emmet, "Spiritual Experience" and "Spirit and Matter," by A. Clutton-Brock, and "Christ the Constructive Revolutionary," by B. H. Streeter.

The Apocalypse of John. Studies in Introduction with a Critical and Exegetical Commentary. By Isbon T. Beckwith. New York: Macmillan, 1919. Pp. xv+794. \$4.00.

This book is a veritable encyclopedia of information regarding the interpretation of Revelation. A series of introductory studies deals at length with a history of eschatological hopes among Hebrews, Jews, and Christians. An extended description is given of apocalyptic